

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and apparatuses sending content descriptors from a server to a client in a content distribution broadcast system. In one aspect, a signal is sent prior to the sending of a content descriptor file. The signal indicates when the content descriptor file will be sent. In another aspect, a unique identifier is assigned to the content descriptor file by the server. The content descriptor file is sent to the client and the client identifies the content descriptor file by the unique identifier. In yet another aspect, a general purpose identifier is assigned to the content descriptor file. The content descriptor file is sent to the client and then a signal is sent to the client afterwards indicating that the content descriptor file has been sent.